

**Congressman Travis Childers Announces More than \$321 Million in Recovery Funds Now Available for Mississippi to Save Jobs, Improve Education**

April 28, 2009

Washington, DC - More than \$321 million is now available for Mississippi under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) announced today. This funding will lay the foundation for a generation of education reform and help save hundreds of thousands of teaching jobs at risk of state and local budget cuts. Mississippi will be eligible to apply for another \$158 million this fall. Today's funding is being made available per Mississippi's successful completion of Part 1 of the State Stabilization Application, which was made available on April 1.

"These significant recovery funds will help save teaching jobs, improve education, and prevent budget shortfalls throughout Mississippi and the First Congressional District during tough economic times," said Congressman Childers. "Giving our children a good education now means preparing them for the future and providing them with the skills and resources they need to succeed in today's especially competitive environment."

To date, Mississippi has received nearly \$135 million in education stimulus funds- representing a combination of funding for Title I, IDEA, Vocational Rehabilitation Grants, Independent Living Grants and Homeless Education Grants. On April 1st, Mississippi, received more than \$66 million in Title I funding and more than \$63 million in IDEA funding. This represents 50 percent of the funding for Title I and IDEA funding Mississippi is eligible for in total. On April 1, Mississippi also received more than \$3 million in Vocational Rehab funds and \$574,295 in Independent Living funds.

In order to receive today's funds, Mississippi provided assurances that they will collect, publish, analyze and act on basic information regarding the quality of classroom teachers, annual student improvements, college readiness, the effectiveness of state standards and assessments, progress on removing charter caps, and interventions in turning around underperforming schools.

Mississippi is also required by the Department of Education to report the number of jobs saved through Recovery Act funding, the amount of state and local tax increases averted, and how funds are used.

For more information on the First District's and Mississippi's share of Recovery Act funds, visit Congressman Childers' online Recovery Tracker at <http://www.childers.house.gov/> .

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